

Region 6
P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208

5230 Evaluation

April 28, 1978

Twisp Ranger District Evaluation

Forest Supervisor, Okanogan NF

Gregory M. Filip, Plant Pathologist, made a recent trip to the Twisp Ranger District and prepared the following report:

On April 18, 1978, I made a visit to the Twisp Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest. The purpose of the visit was to examine dead and dying lodgepole pine saplings. I was accompanied by Dave Dubrouillet, Silviculturist.

We examined several 5- to 7-year-old lodgepole pine saplings near Black Canyon Creek. The saplings regenerated naturally following a fire in 1970. Some ponderosa pine had been planted in the same area.

Damage was evenly distributed over approximately 10 acres that we examined. A few saplings were green and healthy appearing, especially those in draws and gullies. Saplings in higher areas had red needles which appeared first at the tops and branch extremities and eventually on the entire tree. Several saplings were uprooted and no signs of damage by insects, animals, or diseases were noted. Trees that were dead for longer periods of time had a black fungus growth beneath the bark. The fungus was not present on living or dying saplings and appeared to be a saprophytic mold occurring after tree death.

It appears that the saplings are experiencing damage due to the severe drought of 1976-1977. Damage is uniform and not confined to patches or pockets as with damage caused by insects or diseases. Saplings in areas with more soil moisture appeared to be healthy. Ponderosa pine saplings were not damaged as much as were lodgepole pine throughout the area.

The District intends to replant the area with ponderosa pine this spring. Since no insect or disease appears to be causing the damage in the lodgepole pine, planting can be accomplished without fear of damage to newly established seedlings provided soil moisture conditions return to normal.

I agree with Dr. Filip's comments and recommendations.

FRANK J. KOPECKY

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Deputy Regional Forester
State and Private Forestry

cc: Dave Dubrouillet, Twisp RD

GMR:rlp:rjl